

WHAT IS YOUR BIBLICAL DUTY TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?

We need to REVIEW because it has been a few Sundays since we looked at these points,

I. FIRST, OUR DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHO STARTED THE CHURCH.

II. OUR DUTY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CHURCH IS.

IT IS GOD'S LOCAL CHURCHES (ASSEMBLIES) OF PEOPLE TO ATTEND TO HIS AFFAIRS IN THAT COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD.

III. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY ATTEND CHURCH TO WORSHIP GOD.

IV. OUR DUTY IS TO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT OUR CHURCH WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS. There is something special about supporting the Lord's church. It is so special that God promises us a special blessing.

Mal. 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this" Says the Lord of hosts. "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; (NKJV)

V. YOUR DUTY IS SUPPORT TRUE BIBLICAL TEACHING IN THE CHURCH.

VI. YOUR DUTY IS TO BE BAPTIZED AND OBSERVE THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS.

VII. YOUR DUTY IS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN GETTING PEOPLE SAVED, BAPTIZED, AND TEACHING THEM HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

Mt. 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen

A. Example: Supporting the church by attending all the services including the special service to get people saved like our Christmas and Easter Pageants.

VIII. YOUR DUTY IS TO NOT BE A DIVISIVE PERSON AND TO WATCH OUT FOR DIVISIVE PEOPLE AND AVOID THEM.

Rom. 16:17, "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all.

Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.” (NKJV)

1 Cor. 1:10, “But, dear brothers, I beg you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so that there won't be splits in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” (TLB)

1 Cor. 3:3, “For you are still only baby Christians, controlled by your own desires, not God's. When you are jealous of one another and divide up into quarreling groups, doesn't that prove you are still babies, wanting your own way? In fact, you are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord at all.” (TLB)

IX.. YOU SHOULD SETTLE LEGAL DISPUTES WITH OTHER BELIEVERS AMONG YOURSELVES-NOT IN THE WORLD'S SECULAR COURTS.

1 Cor. 6:1, “How is it that when you have something against another Christian, you "go to law" and ask a heathen court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other Christians to decide which of you is right? Don't you know that someday we Christians are going to judge and govern the world? So why can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don't you realize that we Christians will judge and reward the very angels in heaven? So you should be able to decide your problems down here on earth easily enough. Why then go to outside judges who are not even Christians?” (TLB)

A. HOW CAN WE GO ABOUT DOING THIS?

1. Each of you choose one or two godly people to hear the case.
2. Then present your case.
3. Agree you will abide by their decision.
4. Agree you will not get mad if they don't agree with you.

X. YOUR DUTY IS TO SUPPORT YOUR MINISTERS

1 Tim. 5:17, “Pastors who do their work well should be paid well and should be highly appreciated, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. For the Scriptures say, "Never tie up the mouth of an ox when it is treading out the grain-let him eat as he goes along!" And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!" (TLB)

1 Thess. 5:12, “Dear brothers, honor the officers of your church who work hard among you and warn you against all that is wrong. Think highly of them and give them your wholehearted love because they are straining to help you. And remember, no quarreling among yourselves.” (TLB)

Heb. 13:7, “Remember your leaders who have taught you the Word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and try to trust the Lord as they do.” (TLB)

- A. WITHIN SOCIETY, MINISTERS ARE SOMETIMES ATTACKED BECAUSE OF THEIR STAND AND WITNESS FOR CHRIST. THE TEACHING OF GOD'S WORD OFTEN CONFLICTS:
 1. With the behavior and beliefs of unbelievers and believers.
 2. With the beliefs and expectations of society
 3. With laws and actions contrary to God's Word approved by governments
- B. As a result, ministers can end up being neglected, opposed, and persecuted by church members even more than by the unbelievers of the world.
- C. Some translations say: count your minister worthy of double honor.
- D. However, there are conditions attached to giving double honor to ministers.
 1. They must labor hard in directing the affairs of the church.
 2. They must labor hard in preaching and teaching the Word of God.
 3. To honor a person means more than just to esteem and respect. It means to pay and bestow what is due.
 4. Double pay means sufficient and generous financial support.

XI. YOUR DUTY IS TO OBEDY CHURCH LEADERS AND PRAY FOR THEM.

Heb. 13:17, "Obey your spiritual leaders and be willing to do what they say. For their work is to watch over your souls, and God will judge them on how well they do this. Give them reason to report joyfully about you to the Lord and not with sorrow, for then you will suffer for it too." (TLB)

- A. Church leaders are called to watch over your souls.
JESUS said,

Matt 4:4, "But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (NKJV)

1. So the first thing ministers are to do is feed you the Word of God-the Bible.
 2. They are to warn you of dangers to your spiritual life.
- B. Church leaders are accountable to God.
 1. This keeps godly leaders from not taking their job seriously.
 - C. Church leaders can be grieved and hurt.
 1. When you oppose your leaders, you hinder your own growth as well as the growth of other believers.
 2. You begin to cause pain and division in the body of Christ and become a tool of destruction instead of an instrument of love and growth.
 - D. Church leaders need your prayers
 - E. Church leaders are not to be accused of wrong unless there are two or three witnesses that he has done wrong.

2 Tim. 5:19, “Don't listen to complaints against the pastor unless there are two or three witnesses to accuse him. If he has really sinned, then he should be rebuked in front of the whole church so that no one else will follow his example. I solemnly command you in the presence of God and the Lord Jesus Christ and of the holy angels to do this whether the pastor is a special friend of yours or not. All must be treated exactly the same. Never be in a hurry about choosing a pastor; you may overlook his sins, and it will look as if you approve of them. Be sure that you yourself stay away from all sin.” (TLB)

1. Make sure you are staying away from doing wrong before you judge someone else.
2. If a person is not living a clean Christian life, they will have the tendency to not be able to judge someone's else life fairly.

Jesus taught this

Matt 7:3, “Why do you stare from without at the very small particle that is in your brother's eye but do not become aware of and consider the beam of timber that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me get the tiny particle out of your eye, when there is the beam of timber in your own eye?’ You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother's eye.” (AMP)